



CONTENTS

Editorial	3
CFR and the 2004 Election	4
SAGA/Red Sox	6
Rants and Raves from a Far Away Cock	7
OMEN/Red Sox	8

omen

Volume 23, issue 4
November 5, 2004

layout & editing

Abby Ohlheiser

Fuck you all

THE OFFICIAL OMEN HAIKI:

Views in the Omen (5)

Do not necessarily (7)

Reflect the staff's views (5)

Cover "Art" by
Abby Ohlheiser

to submit

Submissions are due ~~Saturdays~~ before 5 p.m. You can submit in rich text or plain text format by diskette (Mac or IBM), and typed hard copies will also be accepted, reluctantly. Label your disks well and they will get back to you. Get your stuff to Abby Ohlheiser, Merrill C202, x4508. You may also use e-mail. Send e-mail submissions to awo03@hampshire.edu

And be sure to read our policy box at the bottom of the next page before submitting.

Visit the Omen's very simple website at omen.hampshire.edu



[sustained, high-pitched beeping noise]

Quote Attributed to Shitty Mac in the Pub Lab

FUCK: A RANT IN 1 3/4 ACTS

Editorial

I generally do not like writing these editorials in earnest, especially about one of the following things: 1) Politics 2) myself 3) moderately incoherent criticisms of Hampshire norms. Unfortunately, I plan on writing about all of those things in this editorial, and I will do it with very little humor.

I held off bringing this issue to Duplications until after election day so that I could put a little notice in this issue encouraging submissions on the results of the election. I'd still like to call for submissions from both sides, as inane or as somber as you wish. Bear with me while I write down my own thoughts before I allow myself the wisdom I will attain from a good night's rest.

When I attempt to find my location on the Hampshire College political spectrum, I usually look towards the center. I'm liberal, but I'm not an activist. I want Bush out of office, but I don't think I'll spend the next four years hiding in Canada. I'm not one of the kids who keeps posting links to the HR 163 (draft) bill on the daily jolt.

Ideologically, I'm a Socialist (let's leave it at that), and I'm registered independent. My friends suggested that I register as a Democrat so that I can vote in primaries and influence the Democratic Party-- try to bring it towards the left-- but I just couldn't bring myself to do it. I decided about three weeks ago that Bush would win. I didn't like the thought, but I decided to live with it and move on.

Imagine my surprise this morning when I woke up in a cold sweat, with my bedsheets twisted around my legs, feeling as if the only way I could go on living would be to stay in my PJs

and keep my door deadbolted for the next four years. I almost skipped my first class. I put on my favorite pants, sucked it up, and went anyway. Instead of getting better -- instead of finding a suitable diversion, like school work -- it got much worse. I returned to my room at 8:30 pm and sat in my coat reading articles on the BBC until a friend came by and tried to snap me out of it.

I'm sure that my day of depression falls in line with that of many other people on this campus. There's nothing like the feeling you get the moment you realize that all those months you let some sorry excuse for a champion of the left sodomize you were in vain. And, what the hell are you supposed to do about it now?

At the all-community meeting, the reactions fell into a few categories: some community members responded with various fire metaphors ("a flame has been lit under me"; "fueling my rage"; "burning with [insert angry emotion of your choice here]"; etc.), some just wanted a group hug, some had started to organize, and a couple of people actually said some interesting things.

Here's what bothers me: in the "us" against "them" language that most people used on Wednesday, how exactly was the "us" defined? Is "us" John Kerry and the Democratic party? Is "us" supposed to represent the entire Hampshire community? If we're making this into an "us" vs "them", which I'm not quite sure it isn't, then how do we handle the "them" within our community? Why is it assumed that every member of the Hampshire community interested in showing up for a teach-in the day after an election will be liberal, or part of the "us"? The third most disheart-

continued on page 7

policy

The Omen is Hampshire's longest-running bi-weekly publication, established by Stephanie Cole in December of 1992. In the past, submissions have included students' perspectives on the campus, administration, news, movie reviews, commentary, short fiction, satire, first born, artwork, comics, and the occasional embarrassing self-promotion. Everything the Omen receives, provided it is sent from a member of the Hampshire community, will be published unless it is deemed libelous or defamatory. Although we find such things amusing and entertaining for countless hours, it is just not an option in this forum. Libel will be considered clearly false or unsupportable writing that maliciously damages a person's reputation.

The Omen will not edit anything you write

(except spelling and grammar). You must sign your real name (no anonymous submissions) and understand that you are responsible for what you say. Nonetheless, views in the Omen do not necessarily represent the views of anyone, anywhere, living or dead.

There is no Omen staff, save those positions of editor-in-chief and layout editor. To qualify for community service you must be a consistent contributor and help regularly with layout. Layout times (and such) will be discussed at our meetings. Meetings are held every Tuesday after release of an issue in the Kiva at 9PM. Everyone, everywhere, living or dead, should come.

The Omen loves you.



SECTION SPEAK

THE COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS AND THE 2004 ELECTION

Since World War II the Democrats and the Republican's foreign policy interests have fused. In last fifty years administrations of both parties have consistently increased defense budgets. Support for both the Cold War and today's War on Terror cross party lines. Moreover, both parties support free trade agreements like NAFTA, signed by Bill Clinton and CAFTA, an extension of NAFTA signed last June by President Bush. Many academics label this unity "the bipartisan consensus." This merger of policies is the centerpiece of American politics; besides halting legitimate debate about foreign policy, it frames domestic issues, social as well economic, and explains why presidential elections degenerated into choosing "the lesser of two evils."

The two parties reached the bipartisan consensus because all higher leadership comes from the essentially same establishment. Harvard Sociologist C. Wright Mills wrote in 1959 of "the power elite" in America. Mills explained that "the power to make decisions" is now "clearly seated in political, military and economic institutions that other areas of society seem off to the side and, on occasion readily subordinated to these." He elaborates, "as each of these domains has coincided with others, the decisions in each above become broader, the leading men of have each have tended to come together to form the power elite of America."

This power elite is best represented in reality by The Council

on Foreign Relations (CFR), a think tank for economics and foreign policy and club of some of the most important individuals in American military, economic, intellectual and political life. The activity of the CFR consists of three overlapping activities. One is "an influential forum" where senior government officials, corporate leaders, military officers, prominent intellectuals and foreign dignitaries meet with Council members to debate the America's foreign policy goals and means to achieve them. Another function is organizing thorough foreign policy studies by council members. Finally the CFR publishes these studies in their magazine *Foreign Affairs*.

Ostensibly the CFR seems like a fairly benign organization, a closer look, however, reveals much more. Economist John Kenneth Galbraith, a former member himself, has called it "a scandal." "Why," he asks, "should a businessman be briefed by Government officials on information not available to the general public, especially since it can be financially advantageous?" While Galbraith comment raises concerns about the "influential forums," the success of CFR members in landing appointed government positions attracts criticism as well. CFR members find themselves in top-level federal positions across administrations; sixteen secretaries of state, sixteen treasury secretaries and thirteen defense secretaries as well as scores of federal department heads have come from CFR ranks. More-

over, every secretary of state since 1949 has been a member and only one, William P. Rogers, joined after his appointment to government.

The CFR, then, has considerable influence in American politics and will continue too after November 2, no matter who wins the election. Both Bush and Kerry have considerable connections to the Council. While George Bush Sr. was a director of the Council in the 1970s, George Bush Jr. is not a member. The current president has, however, surrounded himself with many CFR members including Dick Cheney, Paul Wolfowitz, and Colin Powell—to name a few. John Kerry, like his competitor, is close to the CFR. Kerry and his wife, Theresa Heinz-Kerry, are both members of the Council. He even has more Council members supporting him than Bush. Many of these supporters are economic and foreign policy advisors likely to find positions in Kerry's Administration.

Given both candidates relationship to the CFR it is no wonder both propose essentially the same foreign policy. Shortly after Bush's election in 2000, the Project for a New American Century, a neoconservative foreign policy think tank staffed with CFR members, published the agenda for "maintaining Global U.S. pre-eminence, precluding the rise of a great power rival, and shaping international security order in line with American principles and interests." Every one of the think tanks recommendations was adopted by the Administration, including going to war. A year later, the Progressive Policy Institute, an arm of The Democratic Leadership Council, published a nineteen-page manifesto for

the "New Democrats" including Kerry and fellow CFR member Joe Lieberman among others. Calling for "the bold exercise of American Power" at the center of a "New Democratic strategy of muscular internationalism," New Democrats intend to pursue the same aggressive foreign policy goals as republicans but with international support. Today as George Bush tries to curry some international support for the occupation of Iraq, the Republicans preemption will be little different in reality from Kerry's "muscular internationalism".

Domestic policy, in addition, is also influenced by the bipartisan consensus the CFR represents. Large corporations represented in the CFR fund both candidates. As a result there tax policy is different means to the same ends. President Bush wants to make his 40% tax cut to the wealthiest one percent permanent while Kerry wants to give the wealthy a indirect tax cut by repealing those the Bush tax cuts in favor of corporate tax cuts. In reality however, these two different approaches, like preemption and muscular internationalism, will produce identical results.

Outside of taxes and foreign policy Democrats and Republicans begin to differ. Take for example the issues of abortion, and marriage equality, issues taken from a constitutional standpoint should be cut and dry case of individual rights. These issues simultaneously validate the Democrats as the working mans' party and the Republicans as defender of traditional values. In other, words the two parties play off of cultural differences to get working people to vote against there own interests. As a result the American population

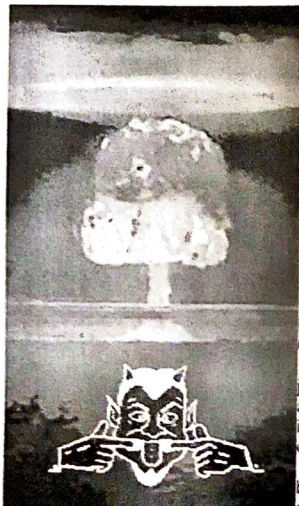
is divided into factions and easily controlled, a strategy founding father James Madison explained in Federalist 10. In the case of abortion Republicans excite to the religious right, explaining how our national morals are decaying—not because of corporate greed and cronyism—but because of women's right to control their bodies. The issue of marriage equality is similar. Here again, Republicans explain extending legal rights to a marginalized segment of the population is causing the decay of traditional values. The result is turning Americans against each other; homosexuals and feminists become the enemy not the power elites who outsource jobs, cut benefits and social services, and roll back social progress.

As a result American presidential elections have eroded into current choosing the "lesser of two evils." Presidential elections especially have become a popularity contest between rich men. Real issues are rarely discussed in any significant depth and most Americans admit they choose there president based on how well they can relate to them not their actual political stance. The corporate media falls into the same "overlapping decisions" of Mill's power elite. Disney/ABC has five directors on the council, Viacom/CBS and Time Warner both have four directors in the CFR and three of *Washington Post/Newsweek's* directors are also members of the Council. Accordingly, the corporate media covers the election with the greater interests at hand.

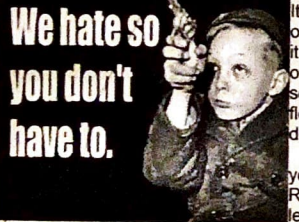
The dilemma facing American politics, then, is a dramatic one. Voting in the Presidential race is largely a symbolic

(continued on page 7)

News, Commentary,
Announcements,
Propaganda,
Editorials.



SECTION HATE



SAGA: AN EASY TO UNDERSTAND HOW-TO GUIDE

I am one of those people that has difficulty sleeping and the events of that particular day weren't helping. Helping even less were the obnoxious festivities being waged by certain dipshits who seem to be characterized by a complete disregard for anybody else upon this campus. There is no fucking reason to purposely make as much noise as possible at any time of the day, much less in the middle of the fucking night. Has the entire campus forgotten that quiet hours are supposed to be after 11 PM on school days? Yeah, yeah, I know. Historic comeback, Sox finally beat the Yankees, blah blah blah. Guess what? I don't give a shit. I don't care if you see Jesus Christ descending from the heavens, SHUT THE FUCK UP!

I'm one of the cafeteria workers on campus. It's not the greatest job in the world, but it is better than having no job (an experience I am well-acquainted with as a result of last year). That being said it can be pretty shitty sometimes, so here are some things you can do to make things easier for me.

1. Dump your glasses, cups, and cereal bowls into one of the bins. I can't stand it when someone leaves a glass full of Pepsi or orange juice on the counter. It's not that fucking difficult to hold your glass over a bin and turn it around. Trust me, it might sound like a crazy concept, but the liquid will not do any damage to the solid foods and/or materials already inside. Also, just because you see me dumping fluids inside the dishroom doesn't mean you should as well. You see, I'm right next to it, so I know that my aim will be accurate, whereas you will fling it and end up dumping half your drink on the counter. And guess who gets to clean it up? Seriously, though, it takes two seconds and helps cut down on the mess. I have always done this, even last year, before I got this job. There is no reason that the rest of you cannot.

2. For some reason today, I had to fish some napkins out of the silverware bin today. I thought it clear that the silverware chute was for silverware. Throw your napkins in the rubbish bin.

3. This one boils my blood the most and I'm pretty sure that typing this is futile, since the people who do this are probably doing it because they are assholes (Probably the same assholes who run around screaming and banging things around when people are trying to sleep). That being said, I'm venting anyway. BUS YOUR OWN GODDAMN DISHES!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! (Was that enough exclamation points for you?) If you are quadriplegic, I'll give a free pass, but if not, there is no damn reason you can't take your dishes with you. It's not even like the dishroom and the exit are on the opposite sides of the building. The dishroom is on the way out the fucking door! Is it that difficult to pick up your dishes and take them with you instead of taking up the time I could be using to wipe off the tables to take seven different trips to cart your shit across the cafeteria? This just floors me. I never have even so much as *thought* about leaving my dishes on the table. Take your trash with you too.

4. See this magazine you are holding? Take it with you. Put it back in the box by the front door of the cafeteria. Recycle it. Burn it in effigy. I don't give a shit. Just don't leave it on the tables.

by Michael Petersen



RANTS AND RAVES FROM A FAR AWAY COCK

Ever since Hampshire began the institution of requiring first year students to take 8 classes, there has been COK One of the biggest problems is the Hampshire FIRST YEAR PROGRAM It doesn't allow academicaa FREEDOM to incoming studenting and they LOSE It and they lose their tutorials and they lose theyre way and they are only taking one thing because of requirements And major tom is a MAJOR part and we think tht the first year pgoram is the major class to take And grading is the worst part of the NS SYSTEM and IA and HACU is there too youset up the jerk and the count goes on and NASCAR and ground control to major tom You and also we are mad about the lack of floating in a most peculiar way And we are all agreed upon the stars and estrangement and theyre sitting and nothing left to chance all is working In the capsule Ground Control to Major Tom Commencing countdown, engines on Check ignition and may Godâ€™s fd And Hampshire is turning itself into a 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 FLOATING WEIGHT LESS ISDF IN A DRIFITING CALLING COMING HOME This is ground control to Major Tom, you've really made the grade! And the papers want to know whose shirts you wear,

Now it's time to leave the capsule if you dare This is Major Tom to ground con-trol, I'm stepping through the door And I'm floating in the most peculiar way And the stars look very difeerent today For here am I sitting in a tin can, far above the world Planet Earth is blue and there's nothing I can do

BRIDGE

Though I'm passed one hundred thousand miles, I'm feeling very still And I think my spaceship knows which way to go, tell my wife I love her very much she knows



(continued from page 3)

ening moment of day (the first being Kerry's concession and the second being Daschle's defeat) was the moment that that girl interrupted Greg Prince's statement reminding us to be sensitive of different views within our community to call all Republicans fascists.

You know all that "fire" we talked about in the meeting? It's an incredibly powerful mobilizing force, and it might be what the Democratic party needs, if their goal is to emerge a strong party in the future. Maybe it'll even be the force behind a more substantial change to our party system. It'll also help to polarize us further, to make us so mad at what happened, and at the people idiotic enough to vote for Bush,

Editorial...

that we become virtually unable to tolerate the existance of views different from our own. Some might argue that it has already happened on our campus. I don't think that this is quite the case, then again, I don't deviate that much for the political norm here.

I actually thought the all-community meeting was somewhat successful. I appreciated a couple speakers above most of the others, and I appreciated the effort to remain sane in a rather surreal environment. I apologise for not being more thoughtful in this column, but that's the way the shit flies today.

I'm tired, I'm hungry, I'm sad, I'm scared, and it's late.



CFR (Continued from page 5)

gesture and while votes have some actual value in state and local offices, less than half eligible voters vote. Prospects for reform are even dimmer given the pervasive influence of "the power elite" represented in the Council on Foreign of Relations. The potential for social change, nonetheless, is present. A potential political base exists in the inactive voters for a new political party and a revolutionary break in American politics. Given the relative comfort and isolation of American life, however, problems may need to become more drastic and closer to normal Americans lives before this potential base is ever mobilized.





WHY YOU SHOULD WRITE FOR THE OMEN

to read something that's done that.

10) Because we all love the public opinion on social issues. Speaking of which, we haven't had any political debate, or rants about the Sox, you silly people, I will now rant about the Sox and our future primates in office.

So, I'm from Arizona, and I don't understand this whole, "Yay Baseball, I love my team, I'll kill you for liking a team that once played against mine, rar." We have a baseball team. They once beat the Yankees for the World Series. I was lucky. That was the ONLY season of Baseball I have ever had anything to do with. We were all shocked. Most of us didn't even know we had a baseball team. There was no screaming and cheering and general chaos when the D- Backs won the World Series. We were all either not paying attention, or too damn amused that we actually had a team and that, holy shit, these old guys could win something to be happy about the win. And then they started sucking again, taking the universe back to its proper order.

You can therefore imagine my surprise when, all of a sudden, there was this massive hoard of rioters tearing through the halls of Dakin screaming like banshees "HOLY SHIT THE RED SOX JUST BEAT THE YANKEES!!!!!!!" Ok, yeah, I'd heard of the Red Sox, and I heard about the "curse" when I got here, but JESUS CHRIST! It's not like it was the World Series or anything. Speaking of which, there was almost no rioting (at least in my location) when they actually DID win the

world series. Now, is it just me, or do all of you have your priorities a little bit backwards? I don't like Football though, so I'll move on to something I know even less about: Politics.

So....yeah....the debates. Those don't give anyone very much hope for the future now do they? I know everyone is looking for more reasons to hate Bush then there are to hate Kerry, but it's getting a little sad. From what I watched, because I stopped after I sent in my absentee ballot, Kerry actually knew what he was talking about and stayed on the topic set forth by the questioner. He answered the questions he was asked, not the ones he was prepared to talk about that night. It's not like they didn't know in advance which topics were going to be covered!

Now, I'm all about the Bush bashing, but come on! At least be consistent! Either he's a fascist dictator trying to start WW III, or he's a puppet controlled by his cabinet. He can't be both insanely idiotic and the next genocidal mastermind. It's impossible to be THAT stupid. But then, why bitch and moan about the election anyways? Is anyone here seriously planning to run for president? And whatever happened to our Republican support group? I know being liberal is in and all, but if you're going to be all about the rights of the people, you have to be all about the rights of everyone, whether they want to be conservative or not. Keep the peace my republican brethren, someday Hampshire will acknowledge your rights.



1) Because you love to see your meaningless (or meaningful, or overly PC, or what have you) babble in print.

2) Because you love to read the stupid (or meaningful, or overly PC, or what have you) shit other people write.

3) Because if you submit to three consecutive issues, you become a columnist and can make up your own icon and we'll attach it to your articles (see my invention above!).

4) Because no one wants to get an Omen folder filled with random filler doodles.

5) Because you can write about Lu Bu, Sandwiches, The Donald, Q, Trekkies, your completely batty prof, or how cool it is now that you don't go to Hampshire anymore, and everyone will have something to say about it, or not, but they'll read it, unless it's an incoherent babble that gives everyone a Migraine. Then they'll do psychoanalytical studies using YOUR Omen submission!

6) So that layout staff can have the time of their lives trying to make 9 pages divisible by four.

7) So that you can give layout staff a headache with rampant misuse of homonyms.

8) Because you love the Omen, and the Omen loves you.

9) Because the Climax sucks my big toe, and you don't want